

TASMANIAN
FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB.

REPORT

ON

EASTER CAMP-OUT,
1906,


By E. A. ELLIOTT,

HON. SECRETARY.

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Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club.

A very enjoyable camp-out of members of the Field Naturalists' Club took place at Freycinet Peninsula, on the East Coast, the place being locally known as The Schoutens. Last year's camp-out at Bream Creek was very enjoyable, but was exceeded by this one. Our full strength was exactly 40 on this occasion.

Many of the members brought cameras with them, conspicuous among these being Mr. J. W. Beattie, photographer to the Tasmanian Government, and most of the photos, accompanying this article were taken by him. Our number also included Mr. L. Rodway, Government Botanist. Other well-known naturalists with us were Messrs. W. L. May, conchologist; A. L. Butler, ornithologist; and O. E. White, geologist.

Favourable reports as to the many matters of interest at The Schoutens were not wanting, and long before Easter arrived it was seen that a large number would take part in the camp, especially as the committee had agreed to the nomination of friends by members; so that it was no surprise to find some thirty-six in number ready to start when the vessel was timed to sail, 2 o'clock in the morning of Good Friday. The vessel, s.s. Moonah, did not shine as a passenger boat, yet, in spite of all, the time passed pleasantly enough. Dunalley was reached shortly after daylight, and here the boat was delayed for some hours, waiting for the tide to rise sufficiently to enable it to pass the bar at the entrance to Denison Canal. Leaving there at 9.30, Maria Island was reached shortly before 1 p.m., where two more members, who had preceded the party, thus far, were picked up.

Passing on the inside of Schouten Island, the vessel proceeded up the coast of the peninsula, which is very mountainous, and has many striking features, nearly to the end of Oyster Bay, the fine scenery being enjoyed en route. On rounding Hazard Point, Cole's Bay was reached, and as the vessel steamed along its shore several beaches were seen, and at one of these, known as Meredith's Fishery, the party landed at 5.30 p.m.

As darkness was closing in, tents were quickly erected, while the boats busily plied between the beach and s.s. Moonah, bringing the impedimenta ashore. At the upper end of the beach there was standing the frame of a dining hut, having a long table with seating accommodation for twenty-five, and adjoining this was a large fireplace, where the cook made preparations for the first camp meal. When this was ready, darkness had quite set in, and with their labours done, members came to do full justice to the fare.

The evening was spent in seining on the beach, and enough fish were taken to supply the camp on the following day. Flounders were in greatest number, at one drag of the seine five and one-third dozen being caught; mullet and colonial salmon were taken as well.

An idea of the geography of the locality had better first be given.

Freycinet Peninsula bounds Oyster Bay on the eastern side, smaller bays in Oyster Bay being called Hazards and Cole's Bays. At the head of Cole's Bay there is a narrow neck some 1,500 yards across, on the other side of which is Sleepy Bay, on the South Pacific Ocean. Going south, a mountainous range, divided in the middle and rising to 1,800 ft., is reached. At this divide a creek runs down the western side into Meredith's Fishery—the site of the camp—and this stream, together with a spring at the other end of the beach, gives an ample supply of fresh water. From the camp a track runs through the divide eastward, passing by a nest of the Sea Eagle. The southern part of the mountain range slopes down to a fresh water lagoon of 500 acres, on an isthmus under one mile in width, nearly at sea-level, having Wineglass Bay on the ocean side and Hazard's Bay on the inner side. Then more uplands—the highest peak of which is Mount Freycinet—extend for six or seven miles until the peninsula ends at Schouten Passage, Geographie Strait.

It is curious to note that the ranges on this peninsula run east and west, while

ranges on the mainland near by extend north and south, in which direction lies the peninsula itself.

On Saturday morning the party broke up into groups to explore. The majority went up the mountains at the rear of the camp, one group going to that part which ended in Sleepy Bay: the other and larger group went up the south-east portion of the range, from the crest of which a fine panorama of the southern end of the Schoutens could be obtained, with the isthmus between Wineglass and Hazard's Bays in the foreground, Mount Freycinet showing boldly up, and Schouten Island in the distance. On this mountain there were enormous boulders of rough, red granite, and the photos, accompanying this article give a good idea of them. This granite gave a firm foothold, but was severe on one's hands: the vegetation included many plants which chiefly consisted of prickles, so that a day's ramble was not without its disadvantages, even in this favoured locality.

It was evident that the granite readily decomposed, because on the tops of many large rocks there were circular holes, which contained good water. The felspar in the granite gave way sooner than the quartz, and this, together with decayed herbage, formed sufficient soil to support vegetation in the crevices of the mountains' rocky slopes.

In walking over the hill's large belts and patches of bare rock were frequently met with; in fact, in many places there was nothing but rock, and the photo. of Sleepy Bay shows the cliffs going sheer down for 500 feet. These belts often look very singular, because the water which runs over them after heavy rain carries light-coloured sediment with it, and, on drying, leaves broad streaks upon the rocks. This gives the idea that a huge giant had white-washed them in places, making the mountains very strange and weird-looking.

The one who had been chosen leader of this expedition was not a member of the club, but one better able to lead in such a trip than any other. This was Mr. Edward O. Cotton, owner of a large estate, Kelvedon, a little below the township of Swansea, on the west side of Oyster Bay. Mr. Cotton came in his whale-boat on Saturday morning, and brought some fishing nets and apples, also a tarpaulin cover, which was soon fitted over the shelter hut. This gentleman first visited the Schoutens in 1853, and has been there so many times since that he knows perfectly its every natural feature. He had the framework of the dining hut erected, and had the cover made to fit it, for every year he takes a party across to spend a fortnight there, and royal times they have. He is a keen ob-

server, and a great lover of nature, and the members of the camp were most fortunate in having such a leader, and we all wish that we may have others as good on future trips.

Mention has been made of Wineglass Bay. This is formed into a perfect semicircle. The sand on its beach is pure white, and composed of powdered quartz. The light green of the water near shore, its deep blue further out, the breakers surging on the white sand, all set within high cliffs on the north, which rise abruptly from the beach's end, then a long, low bank, with little vegetation, at the south fall trees, where a creek runs down from the hills, and then high, rugged cliffs, stretching out for miles to the east—all go to form a lovely scene, which the photographer can reproduce in outline, but which defies the artist to represent in colour.

Sleepy Bay, also on the ocean side, is higher up the coast than Wineglass. Although large beds of kelp, extending far out to sea, keep the water calm (hence its name), it has not the quiet and peaceful aspect of the latter bay. At the former red granite cliffs descend for five hundred feet, and no beach at all is seen. The water has more colours, owing to its varying depths and the vegetation around is of a very vivid green, and having been there once, one wants to go there oftener. One could go a score of times, and always wish to linger, but so it was with other places near our camp.

Mr. Cotton told us that in the early whaling days his father had seen eighty whales lying dead at the beach at Wineglass at one time. Odd rib-bones of whales were seen there during our visit, and also remains of "try-pots." At Meredith's there had also been some "try-pots," and in many other places along the coast of the Peninsula, where "shore parties" had lived. "In the early days it is said schools of whales went north to winter, and coming along the East Coast of Tasmania, followed round Oyster Bay, and for six weeks went through Schouten Passage like pigs through a gate."

Parts of the Schoutens are named after the early whalers, and as an example we may cite Hazard Bay, and the northern point of same called the "Wing of Hazards," taking its name from "Black Hazard" of the whaling brig *Primrose*. Besides naming Tasmania, Maria Van Diemens Eylandt, Tasman gave Schouten Eylandt its name; and being three leagues at sea the isthmus between Hazard and Wineglass was invisible, so he called "Mt. Freycinet" Van der Lyns Eylandt. Geographic Strait and Mt. Freycinet are names given by La Perouse, a Frenchman—so our leader informed us.

Two subjects had been discussed with a considerable amount of expectancy, and even up to the time when the vessel arrived at the camping-ground there was no little interest displayed—unfortunately, both fell far short of what we had been looking forward to. I allude to deep-sea fishing for trumpeter, and dredging for shells. We were unable to do anything in these two matters on account of a strong N.W. wind which sprang up the day after our arrival, and blew straight into the bay, making the water too rough for any comfort in an open boat. Many prepared for trumpeter fishing, had taken deep-sea lines, and it is only natural that some disappointment was felt when it was seen that this fine sport could not be had. Fishing from the rocks with rods and hand-lines occupied the attention of a few, but seines and grab-balls were used throughout the stay, and it was with these we caught sufficient fish to form several meals. As previously stated, flounders were the principal fish caught in the seine, native salmon were also fairly numerous; while in the grab-balls, native salmon and silver trumpeter were chiefly taken—this is without taking into consideration numbers of gummy sharks, which caused great havoc in the nets.

The list of fish taken during the trip is a very fair one, and is as follows.—Native salmon, real trumpeter, silver trumpeter, barracouta, mullet, flathead, rock-cod, ling, and flounder. Non-edible varieties—Porcupine fish, cuttle fish, octopus, several kinds of parrot fish, and leather jackets.

Crayfish nets had been taken, and crayfish were caught from the rocks off shore. Our leader seemed disappointed at these not being caught very freely in Meredith's Fishery. He said that usually a score of them could be caught in less than half an hour. At Sleepy Bay, however, enough were taken to gratify those who had the pleasure of carrying them some three or four miles back to camp. Indeed, some of these crustaceans would cling to the bait on fishing lines, and when pulled close to the surface a quick jerk would send them flying over the rocks.

It may be said that the shells were conspicuous by their absence. Our leader said that only a fortnight before shells were very plentiful on the beaches; but it was seen that very high tides had roved over them with sand before our arrival. A remarkable illustration of the provisions of nature in affording protective colouring to so many creatures all the world over was seen in the case of a shell, *Cominella*

lineolata, which is usually of a dull white with heavy markings of bluish-black, but was here frequently seen to be orange in colour, matching the red granite on which it lived. There was not much either for the geologist on account of the country's formation being of one kind, red granite being the prevailing stone, extending across the peninsula, from Oyster Bay to the South Pacific Ocean. This granite has a very handsome appearance, and is coarse grained, composed of felspar, quartz, and mica. At the summit of one of the mountains a fine, smoky quartz crystal was obtained. On Oyster Bay side of the peninsula the beaches are formed of coarse granite gravel; but at Wineglass Bay, on the ocean side, the beach is pure white, and composed of powdered quartz only. The country there is very barren and worthless for agricultural purposes, as may be seen by the illustrations.

Bird-life is always a noticeable feature of a locality, and in dealing with this it would be hard for me to improve upon Mr. A. L. Butler's report to the meeting of the club on May 7 . . . "After passing Denison Canal, we observed the following birds on the mud-flats, and flying about in the narrows of Blackman's Bay:—Silver and Pacific Gulls and White-breasted Cormorants, Black and White-breasted Oyster-catchers, and a fair number of Gannets, who, for the most part, were engaged in procuring their morning repast of fish. Bass Straits tern were fairly numerous, some fishing and others on the sand-banks and mud-flats resting from their labours necessary to procure them a sufficient breakfast. It was here noticed that the terns and cormorants when resting on the mud-flats were all heading up to windward.

"In passing may be mentioned the exceedingly graceful flight of this tern, especially when "he goes a-hunting." You may have noticed him yourself flying at about 20ft. to 30ft. from the surface of the water with his head down, and his beak nearly at right angles to his body. All at once he sees a small fish a foot or so below the surface, then, like an arrow from the bow, down he comes, and so true is his aim that I have only seen him miss once in 30 or 40 times. . . . Having arrived at Cole's Bay, by the time we were settled it was too late in the evening for any but nocturnal birds to be met with. Of these, we were favoured with but two, for whilst we were having tea the Boobook Owl continually uttered his mournful cry, "mo-pork, mo-pork," and later in the evening the peculiar mewing noise made by the Spotted Owl was also heard, and the bird was located in some ti-tree grow-

ing in the creek near the camp, and was easily identified.

"Next morning the Tasmanian Honey-eaters were very busy round the camp, whilst a pair of Spotted Diamond birds were engaged sucking their morning meal in the branches of a eucalyptus near by, the male pausing continually in his work to evaluate his rest, and utter his shrill piping cry. A pair of Wattle birds in some of the trees higher up the slopes of the hill were giving forth their peculiar harsh, thrusty cry. After breakfast, a party of us ascended the hills to the south-east of the camp, called, I believe, The Hazards. These were found to be very disappointing in the bird-line, as only a few kinds were located, one being of special interest, namely, a fine male specimen of the Sparrow Hawk. The following were also noted:--Spotted Ground Thrush, Hill Crow Shrike, Tasmanian Honey-eater, Brown-tail, Dusky and Red-breasted Robins.

"Our next trip was to Thonin, or Wineglass Bay, and we were more fortunate in the number of birds seen and recognised by their note. On the way up to the top of the divide a nest of the Dusky Robin of last season was discovered containing the remains of three eggs, two of which had two small holes in the side, as if a snake had found out the nest, and sucked the eggs. It was worthy of note that this nest was situate on the south-east side of a hollow tree, and not in any way sheltered from that direction, which I have been told is the weather quarter in that district. This is not generally the case, as the birds seem to know from what quarter they may expect rain, and to guard against it by placing their nest on the lee-side of the tree or stump which they have selected for building purposes. As soon as we began to descend the eastern slopes of the divide, a fair number of birds were seen. Tasmanian, New Holland, and Yellow-throated Honey-eaters made the gaily ring with their various notes, whilst on either side a pair of Shrike Thrushes were calling and answering one another across the gully, their beautiful liquid notes being heard to perfection. As we approached the sea-shore the notes of both Thickheads were heard, and soon afterwards the birds were both seen; Greytail and Olivaceous, as well as a fine specimen of Flame-breasted Robin, the only one noted during the trip. Here, too, the Sericornis and Pink-breasted Robin were seen. We then left the scrub, and went along the beach for about a mile, the only bird not before seen being the Black-capped Petrel. In the bay, the Ground Lark and Striated field Wren were seen, and in the reeds

bordering on one of the lagoons a fine specimen of the Australian Bittern was disturbed from his midday meal.

"Near the sea-shore, in one of the gullies near the Lemon Rock, we were looking at a last year's nest of the Hill Crow Shrike, when the alarm cry of a pair of Crows drew our attention to a fine Sea Eagle winging his flight round the bay, and finally disappeared amongst the high rocky cliffs to the N.W., where most probably hiserie was situated. On the way back to camp some Green Fantots and Black Cockatoos were seen, the latter giving voice to their weird cry, which echoed back from the cliffs and rocks like the wailing of some lost spirit.

"The following Jay the birds noted were: White-eye, Forty-spotted Diamond bird, several Honey-eaters, Albatross, Sericornis, and two Penguins, the last-named being too far off to determine whether they were the Little or Fairy.

"On Tuesday morning several Black-capped Honey-eaters were seen in the trees round the camp, being the first time these birds were seen during the trip. As the steamer was moving out of the bay the note of a butcher bird was heard from a group of trees some distance from where the camp had been. On the homeward trip the usual sea birds were again in evidence, as was also a fine Sooty Albatross, which was seen skimming over the waves to the north of Maria Island, while nearer at hand a Petrel was observed, this most likely being the Atlantic Petrel. Upon nearing Maria Island a large flock of birds rose from Rabbit Island, but as they soon alighted again, it was difficult to place them, but from their flight as seen through the field-glasses they appeared to be Blue-Banded Grass Parakeets.

"The above contains a full list of birds as observed by the writer, and, with the exception of some Quail, Duck, and Swan, which were reported to have been seen by other members, forms a complete list of the birds of the Schouten Peninsula, which does not seem to be the home of many birds; but, doubtless, a more prolonged stay during the spring months of the year, and a fuller investigation of the swamps, lagoons, and islands would add many more birds to the list, which is only the record of a four days' stay."

Mr. Butler, however, does not mention a nest of the Sea Eagle in the northern end of Wineglass Bay. It was in a eucalypt, and between 60ft. and 70ft. up, not as high as these birds usually build. An excellent photo of this nest is shown. Later there will be a few words more to say about the Black Swan.

As to the botany noted during the trip, Mr. L. Rodway reports:—"The vegetation of Freycinet Peninsula is, owing to the barrenness of the locality, restricted. Not a great number of species occur there, but among those that do are some very interesting plants. The only Tasmanian *Kunzia*, *K. corifolia*, grows in moderate profusion, forming pretty, much-branched, semi-drooping shrubs, with soft, light green foliage. Of the same order, *Myrtaceæ*, the *Diosma*-like shrub *Thyptomena micrantha* is fairly common. This is exceptionally interesting in that it has such a restricted distribution. Up to the present it has only been found near here and on some of the Bass Straits islands. There are two *Rhamnaceæ* shrubs here that do not appear to spread further south—*Spyridium vexilliferum* (a somewhat heath-like plant of erect habit, around whose flower masses occur few pure white, leafy bracts, giving a very marked appearance), and the other a small, flat, wiry shrub, *Stenanthemum pimeleoides*, whose chief point of interest lies in that it occurs about this part of Tasmania, and nowhere else in the world.

"With these plants occurs a twiggly *Boronia*, *Eriostemon virgatus*, which, though more widely distributed, does not occur beyond the limits of our State. To revert to the *Myrtles*, the gum trees are stunted, and only white, peppermint and a few blue gums appear. Stringy bark and its allies do not seem to have got a foothold. Amongst tea trees, a form more nearly allied to *Leptospermum myrtifolium* than other species is common on the granite hills. The flowers and fruits are large for the genus, and the latter, contrary to the customary habit, have convex protruding capsules similar to those of *L. scoparium*. Heaths are not common, only a few specimens of the native rocket, *Epacris lauginosa*, and the blunt-leaved heath, *E. obtusifolia*, were found. On the beach at Wineglass Bay the maritime form of the prickly sow-thistle, *Sonchus asper*, is common. This plant is also found in other localities on the East Coast, and as far south as Recherche Bay. It is a moot point whether it should be considered indigenous or introduced. It occurs in New Zealand, where the late Professor Kirk did not hesitate to claim it as native. But few leguminous plants thrive here, but of these, the pretty *Dillwynia ericifolia* develops into a handsome shrub. The ever-interesting little *Drosera*s appear to thrive well, most of the common species being plentiful. *D. spatulata*, so rare in the South, is common. One of the prettiest shrubs on the peninsula is the *Euphorbiaceæ* *Phyllanthus gunnii*, much divided into slender, grace-

ful, somewhat drooping branches, covered with pale green, round leaves. This plant has been gathered at Glenorchy; it is a rapid grower, and deserves a place in our gardens, but being a native is not valued. Amongst the very few *Proteaceæ* plants found here, *Conospermum taxifolium* deserves notice. It is an erect shrub, with linear ashy-white leaves. It spreads from the East Coast to Queensland, but not to the west or south of either Australia or Tasmania. It also deserves a place in our gardens.

"Easter is a bad time for orchids, but *Dendrobium striolatum*, with leaves like porcupine quills, was found in abundance clothing bare granite boulders. The Spotted Orchid (*Dipodium punctatum*) was here, but in fruit. This latter plant does not possess green tissue, and, therefore, has not the power to construct sugar, which is the base from which all organic compounds, whether of the vegetable or animal, are built. There is an interesting problem how this plant and its ally, *Gastrodia*, obtains its food. Is it parasitic or mycorrhizic? The country it is found in negatives the idea of its being saprophytic. The common Black Boy (*Xanthorrhoea australis*) is common; as, indeed, it is in very numerous places in Tasmania. It is singular that this, till the last few years, was treated in botanical works as comparatively rare in Tasmania, while its little relative, *X. minor*, which to-day no one appears to be able to find here, was recorded as abundant, and covering large patches in many localities. The sedges are not much in evidence. *Canstis pentandra* is plentiful, which is only interesting in so far that it does not appear further south. *Gahnia microstachya* of Victoria and New South Wales flourishes from here to the north-east of Tasmania, but not elsewhere. A grass, *Zoysia pungens*, was found covering damp flats. Mr. E. O. Cotton has found it also at Kelvedon. This record is interesting as being the most southern find. It had been before recorded from Korea, along the coast of China, the East Coast of Australia, and as far as Kent Group. Its habit is that of couch, and is a useful coastal sand binder. In America it is known as the Japanese lawn grass, and is found to make a superior lawn to that of the coarser buffalo, which is in so much favour in Australia. The appearance must be striking, as the grass forms a very pale, almost blue grey, sward. The Oyster Bay Pine of the East Coast is fairly plentiful. The reckless way in which names are popularly distributed alone made this a pine. It is more correct to call it a cypress, though not quite so. The tree never assumes sufficient dimensions to make it a timber tree of

commercial valūe, but for small purposes it is sought after. Besides the East Coast of Tasmania it is found in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland. The plant suffers from a superfluity of scientific names. Robert Brown, in his "Prodromus," calls it *Callitris rhomboidea*. Another of the front rank authorities whose works the aspiring botanist has to take cognisance of, Ventenat, named it *C. eupressiformis*. Mirbel, considering that the generic name *Callitris* being very like the genus, *Calythrix* of Myrtaceæ, might cause confusion, suggested the name *Frenela*. According to him, Oyster Bay Pine is *Frenela ventenati*. Then Endlicher, considering Mirbel might be justified in altering the generic, but not the specific, designation, named the plant *Frenela rhomboidea*. Other men have given the unhappy plant seven other names, but they are fortunately sinking into obscurity. Let us do nothing to resuscitate them. Amongst ferns, the three common *Gleichenias* and *Sehizea fistulosa*, were found. Cryptogamic flora of this region is not copious. The phosphorescent *Pleurotus* was abundant, and a poisonous looking *Strobilomyces*, that turned a deep blue green where fractured, entertained gatherers, but fungus parasites were hardly found. Vegetation seemed too hardy to entertain them."

The club has been keenly interested in having Freycinet Peninsula set aside as a permanent reserve, and this locality was chosen for the camp partly on this account—we wanted to see for ourselves whether the place was suitable.

We had been told before we left, by prominent men who had been there, that kangaroo and wallaby abounded, and that in a walk of half a mile a dozen or so would be seen, yet not more than five or six kangaroo and wallaby were seen altogether by the forty members of our camp during the stay.

Mr. Edward Cotton (who has himself worked hard to have this properly reserved), writing to me on December 11, 1905, stated that it was late to reserve the place, as "many thousands of native game had been killed last season." The words "many thousands" give no accurate idea of the slaughter that occurred, but the possible number killed in this district, namely, over 40,000, readily accounts for the few seen by our party. The police officer from Swansea visited the camp on Easter Monday, and in conversation informed us that £5,000 worth of skins came from the Swansea district in 1905. Taking the average price paid to be 2s. per lb., and the average weight per skin to be 1lb. (supposing the numbers of kangaroo and wallaby to be equal), we find that this represents the slaughter of 50,000 head of game; or, if

we include in the £5,000 for "skins" a number of opossum at a higher value, we have at least, say, 40,000 animals killed. One can hardly conceive of a greater number being taken in one small district in Tasmania.

We question whether money obtained from hunting is of any real benefit to the State, as it produces a roving and thriftless life amongst many of those pursuing it, and places beyond restraint a number who, for the future maintenance of law and order, had better be given no such inducement to keep from the bounds of civilisation; by prohibiting the export of skins of our native mammals, except in a manufactured condition (a suggestion by one of our members, Mr. A. R. Reid), then sufficient protection would, we believe, be given to the native fauna of our island. If the prohibition of the export of skins was not considered desirable, the same ends could be gained equally well by making the snaring of game a penalty under the Game Protection Act, as all the animals are captured by snaring when their skins are sought.

To confine our remarks to the *Sehouteus*, it must be said that the peninsula readily adapts itself to the formation of a national park and game reserve, where our native animals could enjoy life without fear of molestation, and wild-fowl resort to the lagoons to add greatly to the general interest.

A fence could easily be put across the narrow neck between Coles and Sleepy Bays. In the photo, "View from head of Coles Bay, showing mountains at rear of camp," the best spot where such a fence could commence is shown, namely, at the corner of the beach, for here the rocks go straight down into deep water. At the back of the beach there is a considerable area of open, swampy ground, which rises slightly towards Sleepy Bay, still keeping fairly clear, and finally dips down to the cliffs on the ocean side, and, in taking the photo of Sleepy Bay, Mr Beattie doubtless, stood on the exact spot where the eastern extremity of the boundary fence could best end—on the top of cliffs 50ft. high.

This fence would be under one mile in length, and a carefully-prepared estimate Mr. Cotton sent me shows that it would cost no more than £41, or £66 with two widths wire netting. The expense would only be a little more to run the boundary fence along the bank of the beach so as to enclose the large swampy hollow, which would be a valuable acquisition to the reserve, the land being no good for agriculture. This place is very lightly timbered, and after a few years of protection kangaroo would again teem as in former times,

In taking us over this part of the country, our leader stated that he had seen kangaroo feeding like a flock of sheep in that very opening - when we were there a careful search revealed only occasional tracks in the bare patches amongst the swamp growth.

On the 11th January of this year a Government proclamation prohibited the destruction of deer, kangaroo, and opossum at this locality. There are no deer on the Peninsula. Wallaby are of equal interest as kangaroo, not only to the naturalist, but also to the sight-seer, and are therefore deserving of equal protection; in fact, all fauna should be strictly preserved, and no shooting at all allowed. The proclamation only holds good for five years, at the expiration of which period a further destruction will undoubtedly take place, unless steps are taken for permanent preservation, and it is the wish of the camp members, and of the T. F. N. Club, as a whole, together with numbers throughout the island, that a national park be formed, where native animals and birds may be preserved for future generations.

Black swan were formerly numerous in the lagoons between Wineglass and Hazard's Bays, yet not a single swan was seen in that part during our visit, and only a solitary duck. Some parties have shot the birds, and others taken their eggs, so that between them the present state of desolation has been brought about - on one occasion a fisherman took 500 swan's eggs. The lagoons evidently form a good feeding ground, and if only left undisturbed there would soon be hundreds of swans on the lagoons, forming a pleasing feature of the locality.

On Tuesday morning, 17th April, there was unusual bustle in the camp, for the steamer was expected early, to take the party back from their pleasant camping ground to the toil of city life.

Members were grouped at one end of the beach, and there photographed. Afterwards, Mr. E. J. C. Whitesides, on behalf of the party, expressed their appreciation of the sterling services, numerous stories, and old-time reminiscences of the leader, which made the camp such a successful one, and at the close called for three cheers. Mr. Cotton also had to stand the strain of 40 hearty voices singing "For he's a jolly good fellow."

In concluding what I fear are too lengthy remarks on the second camp out of the Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club, it must be stated that each of the camp members determined to do his share towards the success of the expedition, and as the result the greatest good-fellowship prevailed. With so large a party many things might have occurred to mar the pleasures, and the absence of these is a cause of general and individual satisfaction.

All the photos accompanying this report were taken by Mr. J. W. Beattie, with the exception of the eagle's nest, for which Mr. A. Propsting claims credit.

Excellent though they may be, small photos cannot do justice to this "chain of rugged granite mountains." Any who may read this article, and have not been there, may visit the Schoutens with every assurance that they will not be disappointed with the scenery. Even if this place is not made a national park, we know that it can never be taken away from us.

